

## **Big Game Guide Permit Information Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**

Big game guide permits on 15 national wildlife refuges in Alaska, including Arctic Refuge, are awarded through a competitive selection process in which qualified Alaska big game guides may apply for the areas being offered. Properly completed proposals are scored by panels of Service employees using established ranking factors for the following criteria:

- 1) ability to provide a high quality hunt and guiding service to the public;
- 2) safety record, training, equipment and plan;
- 3) demonstrated experience and knowledge of the terrain, climate, and species to be hunted;
- 4) demonstrated experience and knowledge in the area being applied for;
- 5) impacts of the proposed operation on wildlife and other refuge resources such as water quality, vegetation disturbance, and soil disturbance;
- 6) impacts of the proposed operation on other refuge users, including subsistence users; and
- 7) history of compliance with state and federal laws, regulations, and permitting requirements associated with commercial guiding.

Ranking panel members score all proposals received, and then forward the scores to the refuge manager, who makes the final selections for the individual guide use areas based on the results of the ranking panels, his/her own examination of the highest ranked proposals, interviews of the applicants, and client references. Other records or sources of information may also be used to verify the performance and qualifications of applicants.

Guides who are awarded competitively bid permits for guide use areas in the Arctic Refuge are authorized exclusive use of the awarded areas for five years. If all permit terms and conditions have been met and the performance record is satisfactory, the permit will be renewed noncompetitively for an additional five years upon application. At the end of the ten year period (or the first five year period if permit conditions have not been complied with) the area is again offered through the competitive process.